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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/611,496	06/30/2003	Dennis M. Pfister	SUNM-P012	3343

24209 7590 12-02/2004  
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EXAMINER  
SPITZER, ROBERT H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1724

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/611,496

Applicant(s)

PFISTER ET AL.

Examiner

Robert H. Spitzer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,6-31,34-42,45 and 46 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4,5,32,33,43 and 44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 June 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 06/30/2003.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. The figures of drawing are objected to because in Fig. 4, number "62" is used to show both "a generally flat top surface" and "a power supply". Applicants are reminded that only like elements can have the same reference designation. Thus, one of those number "62"s must be changed. Applicants are reminded that corrected drawings are required in response to this Office action.

2. Claims 1-3,6-31,34-42,45 and 46 are allowed.

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 4,5,32,33,43 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 4 is indefinite because it recites "a mesophase pitch-based graphitic foam product" without any correlation/distinction to "a carbon based foam monolith" previously recited in claim 1. Claim 5 is indefinite because it recites "a mesophase pitch-based activated graphite foam product" without any correlation/distinction to either "a carbon based foam monolith" of claim 1 or "a mesophase pitch-based graphitic foam product" of claim 4. Claim 32 is indefinite because there is no correlation/distinction between the now recited "mesophase pitch-based graphitic foam product" and the "carbon based foam monolith" of claim 21. Claim 33 is indefinite because there is no correlation/distinction between the now recited "mesophase pitch-based graphite foam product" and either

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product of claim 21 or claim 32. Claim 43 is indefinite for the same reason as claims 4 and 32. Claim 44 is indefinite for the same reason as either claim 5 or claim 33.

5. Claims 4,5,32,33,43 and 44 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

6. The references listed on both the PTO-1449 and the PTO-892 show art of interest only, over which the claims recite allowable subject matter.

7. Applicants' response to this Office action should also make the following editorial changes: page 2, line 13, "increases" should be "increase", and in line 15, "an" should be "and"; page 5, line 7, "gasses" should be "gases"; page 11, lines 3 and 4, "valves 38-46" should be "valves 38,40,42,44 and 46", as there are no odd-numbered valves, in line 13, "in to" should be "into", and in line 18, "a adsorbent" should be "an adsorbent"; and, on page 12, line 4, "an" should be "and".

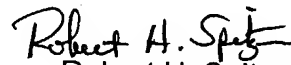
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert H. Spitzer whose telephone number is (571) 272-1167. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from (5:30AM-4:00PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

November 29, 2004

  
Robert H. Spitzer  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1724

November 29, 2004